

# **Toxic Stress Steering Committee**

## **Meeting Summary**

**March 20, 2015**

**Nebraska State Office Building, Conference Room 5B**

### **Attendees**

In person: Mary Will, Betty Medinger, Heather Leschinsky, Jennifer Severe-Oforah, Sara Ann Kotchian, Alison Keyser-Metobo, Richard Mettler, Paula Eurek, and Mai Dang (reporting)

By phone (in listening mode): Dr. Gina DiRenzo-Coffey

### **Welcome & Introductions**

Richard Mettler called the meeting to order at 10:00 am. Steering Committee members introduced themselves. Paula updated on staffing changes. With Tiffany's resignation, Paula will take the lead with Richard's support as facilitator. The vacant position is being posted, with plans to fill in the next several weeks.

### **Review January 16, 2015 Meeting Summary**

Paula reviewed the January Meeting Summary, and members accepted it as presented.

### **Review Expectations for Strategic Plan**

Paula provided a recap of commitments made to the grant funder. *As described in Nebraska's grant application, the committee has until 5-1-2015 to accomplish the following work:*

1. Define a vision for a system of toxic stress mitigation for young children ages 0 – 3;
2. Assessment to identify Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats (SWOT analysis);
3. Strategic analysis to identify and prioritize major issues/goals;
4. Design major strategies to address issues/goals;
5. Establish action plans (objectives, resource needs, roles and responsibilities for implementation);
6. Record priorities, goals, strategies/programs & action plans in a Strategic Plan document; and,
7. Develop a yearly Operating Plan document.

Item number 2 was completed in November 2014, and number 3 was partially completed in December 2014 and January 2015. The other actions had not yet been completed. To move more quickly towards the completion of a strategic plan, Paula prepared an initial draft for the members to react to.

### **Review Draft Strategic Plan**

Paula provided background on the development of the draft plan. She consulted a few examples of strategic plans developed within NE DHHS and noted considerable variability in content and format. The draft prepared for the members to review was kept simple. For instance, in the background section, there was no mention of science-based reasoning or data round the topic, as Paula wasn't sure how important that information would be to the committee members. Paula walked through each section of the draft and clarified intent and what information yet needed to be developed.

Sara Ann pointed out that First Five Nebraska commissioned a data report which may be useful in further developing and implementing the strategic plan. That data report may be found at

[http://www.firstfivenebraska.org/uploads/nebraska\\_final.pdf](http://www.firstfivenebraska.org/uploads/nebraska_final.pdf).

## Feedback on Draft Strategic Plan and Next Steps for Finalizing

Richard guided members in a discussion of the draft strategic plan. Members agreed on edits as follows:

- A preamble for goals: Nebraska families, providers, and policy makers understand, prevent, and reduce the impact of toxic stress.
- Vision: Nebraska's Vision of Reducing Toxic Stress Experienced by Young Children:
  - ✓ Healthy babies and young children in communities that support families
- Goal statements: revisions were made to Goals #2 and #4.
  - **Goal 2**: Nebraska system stakeholders have access to and utilize accurate data and research-based information on toxic stress to ~~define~~ **describe** and ~~measure~~ **address** its impact on infants and young children in the state.
  - **Goal 4**: Nebraska has suitable resources and policies that support systems **and communities** in effectively addressing toxic stress and its impact on infants and young children
- Strategies: revisions were made as follows:
  - **Strategy of Goal 2**: Identify and define ~~indicators~~ **risk factors** based on best-practices for measuring toxic stress and its impact on infants and young children; collect indicators and analyze; establish methods for disseminating data
  - **Strategy of Goal 3**: Utilize collective impact model to mobilize system stakeholders and sustain collaborative actions; establish and/or identify a clearinghouse on **evidence-informed and** evidence-based strategies for preventing and mitigating toxic stress and its impact on infants and young children
  - **Strategy for Goal 4**: Identify through literature review policies needed to support effective systems **and communities**; conduct analysis of existing policies and supports; utilize collective impact structure to effect needed changes

Now that the committee agreed on vision, goals, and strategies, Paula will draft objectives and action plans. Members are invited to add more information to the background of the Plan.

## Transition from Strategic Plan to Implementation

The committee agreed as follows:

1. Prioritizing goals and strategies:
  - Renummer the goals by their priority: Goal 1 - Goal 4 - Goal 2 - Goal 3
  - Need to insert "stakeholder engagement/participation" in each goal
  - Rewrite the goal in the data section
2. Role of Steering Committee in Implementation: Richard asked the panel to revisit the Charge in determining their role in implementation. Members present agreed that once the Plan is put together, the committee will continue to have a role in the operational work as stakeholders.

## Next Steps

The committee will review the second draft of the strategic plan next time. The meeting concluded at 12pm.

## 2015 Meeting Dates

Meetings are from 10am – 12pm, on Friday morning at the Nebraska State Office Building, 301 Centennial Mall South in Lincoln.

April 17, Lower Level Room F

May 15, Room 5B

July 17, Room 5B

September 18, Room 5B

November 13, Room 5B

June 19, Lower Level Room F

August 21, Room 5B

October 16, Room 5B

December 11, Room 5B